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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, FRESNO DIVISION

ST. PAUL FIRE AND MARINE
INSURANCE COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

KINSALE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendant.

NEW YORK MARINE AND
GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY,
a Delaware corporation,

Plaintiff,

v.

KINSALE INSURANCE COMPANY,
an Arkansas corporation,

Defendant.

TRC OPERATING COMPANY, INC.,
a California corporation, TRC
CYPRESS GROUP, LLC, a California
Limited Liability Company,

Real Parties in Interest.

Case No. 1:20-cv-00967-NONE-JLT-
BAK (BAM)

Consolidated With Case No. 1:20-cv-
01085-NONE-JLT

**EX PARTE APPLICATION TO
EXTEND TIME TO FILE JOINT
STATUS REPORT;
DECLARATION OF MATTHEW J.
HAFEY; DECLARATION OF
JAMES P. WAGONER; ORDER**

Hon. Jennifer L. Thurston

Complaint Filed: August 5, 2020
Trial Date: None

1 Pursuant to the Court’s November 12, 2021 Order (Doc. 24), the Parties are
 2 required to file a Joint Status Report within 120 days from the date of that Order,
 3 which is March 12, 2022. On March 10, 2022, New York Marine and General
 4 Insurance Company (“New York Marine”) filed an Ex Parte Application to extend
 5 the March 12, 2022 deadline to file the Joint Status Report to March 25, 2022 due to
 6 counsel of record for Kinsale Insurance Company (“Kinsale”) recent switch of law
 7 firms and inability to obtain a Substitution of Attorneys in time to file the Joint Status
 8 Report by March 12, 2022. (Doc. 33.) By Order dated March 14, 2022 (Doc. 34),
 9 the Court granted the Ex Parte Application.

10 New York Marine hereby requests, ex parte, that the March 25, 2022 deadline
 11 to file the Joint Status Report be extended to April 8, 2022 because counsel of record
 12 for Kinsale has been unable to obtain a Substitution of Attorneys and recently had a
 13 death in the family which will prevent the Parties from filing the Joint Status Report
 14 by March 25, 2022. This Ex Parte Application is unopposed.

15 On February 21, 2022, Matthew J. Hafey, counsel of record for Kinsale,
 16 switched law firms from Nemecek & Cole to Nicolaides, Fink, Thorpe, Michaelides,
 17 Sullivan LLP (“Nicolaides”). Hafey Decl., ¶ 2. Ms. Berube, the other attorney at
 18 Nemecek & Cole who is of record in this action, is no longer with the firm. *Id.* There
 19 are no other attorneys at Nemecek & Cole who are familiar with this file. *Id.* Mr.
 20 Hafey has not yet obtained a substitution of attorney from Kinsale as its lead counsel
 21 in this action. Hafey Decl., ¶ 3. When New York Marine filed its Ex Parte
 22 Application on March 10, 2022, Mr. Hafey believed that a final decision as to whether
 23 he would remain counsel of record was expected to be made in the subsequent ten
 24 days. *Id.* However, Mr. Hafey’s mother-in-law recently passed away which required
 25 that he travel to Connecticut to handle funeral arrangements. Hafey Decl., ¶ 4. As a
 26 result, Mr. Hafey has been unable to “meet and confer” with counsel for New York
 27 Marine, St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company (“St. Paul”), TRC Operating
 28 Company, Inc. and TRC Cypress Group, LLP (collectively “TRC”) regarding the

1 contents of that Joint Status Report in time for that Report to be filed by March 25,
2 2022 pursuant to the Court's Orders of November 12, 2021 (Doc. 24) and March 14,
3 2022 (Doc. 34). Hafey Decl., ¶ 5. Mr. Hafey anticipates that he will be available to
4 "meet and confer" with counsel for the other parties within the next ten days such that
5 the parties should be in a position to file the Joint Status Report by April 8, 2022.
6 Hafey Decl., ¶ 6.

7 In light of counsel for Kinsale being unavailable to "meet and confer" regarding
8 the contents of the Joint Status Report to be filed by the parties, New York Marine
9 requests an extension from March 25, 2022 to April 8, 2022 to file the Joint Status
10 Report pursuant to the Court's Orders of November 12, 2021 (Doc. 24) and March
11 14, 2022 (Doc. 34). No parties oppose this Ex Parte Application. Wagoner Decl., ¶
12 5.

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14 Dated: March 23, 2022

McCORMICK, BARSTOW, SHEPPARD,
WAYTE & CARRUTH LLP

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17 By: _____



James P. Wagoner

Kevin D. Hansen

Brandon M. Fish

Attorneys for Plaintiff New York Marine and
General Insurance Company

DECLARATION OF MATTHEW J. HAFEY

I, Matthew J. Hafey, declare as follows:

1. I am a partner with the law firm Nicolaides, Fink, Thorpe, Michaelides, Sullivan LLP (“Nicolaides”). I am a member in good standing of the State Bar of California, and am admitted to the practice before the above-entitled Court. The following facts are based upon my personal knowledge. If called as a witness I could and would testify competently to these facts under oath.

2. Until February 18, 2022, I was a member of the law firm of Nemecek & Cole which is counsel of record for defendant Kinsale Insurance Company (“Kinsale”). While at Nemecek & Cole, I was lead counsel for Kinsale in this action. My associate, Bevin Berube, was also counsel of record. Ms. Berube left the firm in 2021. There are no other attorneys at Nemecek & Cole who are familiar with this file at this time.

3. I have not yet obtained a Substitution of Attorney replacing Nemecek & Cole with the Nicolaides firm as counsel of record in this matter. When New York Marine and General Insurance Company (“New York Marine”) filed its Ex Parte Application on March 10, 2022, I had expected that a decision would be made in the subsequent ten days as to whether Kinsale would retain the Nicolaides firm or other counsel and that a Substitution of Attorney would be filed within that time.

4. However, my mother-in-law was terminally ill and passed away on March 22, 2022. For this reason, I had to travel to Connecticut for the week of March 21, 2022 to handle funeral arrangements.

5. As a result, I have been unable to obtain a Substitution of Attorney from Kinsale and have been unable to “meet and confer” with counsel for New York Marine, St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company, TRC Operating Company, Inc. and TRC Cypress Group, LLP regarding the contents of that Joint Status Report in time for that Report to be filed by March 25, 2022 pursuant to the Court’s Orders of November 12, 2021 (Doc. 24) and March 14, 2022 (Doc. 34).

DECLARATION OF JAMES P. WAGONER

I, James P. Wagoner, declare as follows:

1. I am a member of the law firm McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard, Wayte & Carruth LLP, counsel herein for Plaintiff New York Marine and General Insurance Company (“New York Marine”). I am a member in good standing of the State Bar of California, and am admitted to the practice before the above-entitled Court. The following facts are based upon my personal knowledge. If called as a witness I could and would testify competently to these facts under oath.

2. By Order dated November 12, 2021 (Doc. 24), the Court stayed this action and ordered the parties to file a Joint Status Report within 120 days from the date of the Order, which is March 12, 2022.

3. On March 9, 2022, I received an email from Matthew Hafey advising that he was unable to “meet and confer” regarding the contents of the Joint Status Report because he had been unable to obtain an executed Substitution of Attorney from his old firm, Nemecek & Cole. Mr. Hafey advised that he believed that he would have the executed Substitution of Attorney within the next ten days and that he or another attorney will be in a position to “meet and confer” regarding the Joint Status Report in time to have it filed by March 25, 2022.

4. On March 10, 2022, New York Marine filed an Ex Parte Application to extend the deadline to file the Joint Status Report from March 12, 2022 to March 25, 2022 (Doc. 33). The Court granted this extension by Order dated March 14, 2022 (Doc. 34).

5. On March 22, 2022, I received an email from Mr. Hafey advising that he is unable to “meet and confer” regarding the contents of the Joint Status Report because his mother-in-law recently passed away which required that he travel to Connecticut for the week of March 21, 2022 and to handle funeral arrangements. Mr. Hafey requested another two weeks in order to handle family matters and to obtain the executed Substitution of Attorney.

1 6. By emails dated March 22 and 23, 2022, counsel for St. Paul Fire and
2 Marine Insurance Company, TRC Operating Company, Inc. and TRC Cypress Group,
3 LLP advised that they do not oppose this Ex Parte Application.

4 I declare under penalty of perjury under that the foregoing is true and correct.
5 This this Declaration was executed by me on March 23, 2022 in Fresno, California.

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James P. Wagoner

ORDER

The Court, having reviewed the Ex Parte Application To Extend Time To File Joint Status Report and the Supporting Declarations of Matthew J. Hafey and James P. Wagoner, and good cause showing, HEREBY ORDERS as follows:

1. The time for the Parties to file their Joint Status Report pursuant to the Orders dated November 12, 2021 and March 14, 2022 is extended from March 25, 2022 to April 8, 2022.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 24, 2022

/s/ Barbara A. McAuliffe
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE